

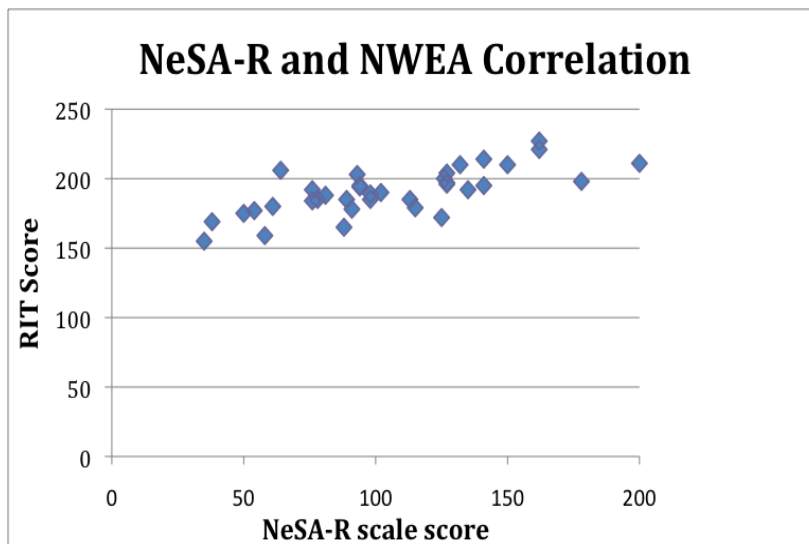
NeSA-R and NWEA Correlation

Results from the NeSA-R can be correlated to a norm-referenced test like the MAP test to identify students who may need additional help to be proficient on the NeSA assessment.

Create a spreadsheet which has names in column A, NeSA-R scale scores in column B, and MAP RIT scores in column C. The names are not necessary to find the correlation but will help to identify students who are outliers.

	NeSA Scale Score	RIT score
Student 1	61	180
Student 2	91	178
Student 3	115	179
Student 4	127	204

Students will usually score at a similar level on both tests. There will be some “outliers” who score higher on one test but lower on the other.

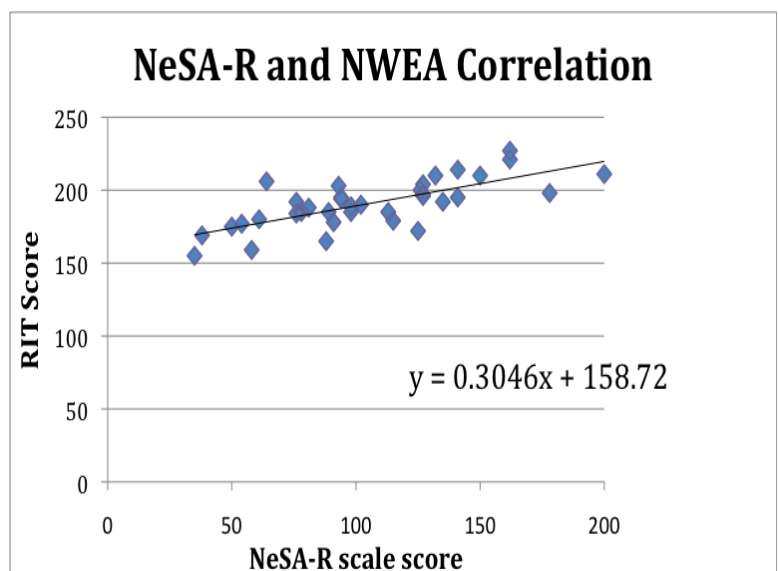


Once the scores have been entered, create a “x-y scatter” chart. The RIT scores will be on the y-axis and the NeSA-R scale scores on the x-axis. A point is created for each student. As you move your cursor over a point, the coordinates of the point will appear and the student can be identified. Notice that the points form a pattern, generally going up when moving to the right.

Create Trend Line

While a general pattern can be seen, a “trend line” can be created. A trend line provides an equation of the best-fit line that goes as close as possible to all of the points. There are many ways to create a trend line in Excel. Each version of Excel is a little different as well as the Mac and Windows versions are each different as well.

- Try right clicking in the area of some of the points. A window or pull down menu box will appear.



- Select “add a trend line”
- Click the box to “display the equation on chart”
- The equation for this set of data is $y = 0.3x + 159$
- Remember that the x-scores are NeSA-R.
- A scale score of 85 “meets” the level for the test. If 85 is placed in the equation for x the corresponding RIT score is 184.5
- Remember this provides a general correlation. For this grade level students scoring around 185 will “meet” the NeSA-R.
- This provides an approximate score to identify students who may not be proficient on the NeSA-R.
- Moving the cursor around on some of the points will find students who scored above a 185 on the MAP who were not identified as proficient and students who scored below 185 on the MAP who were identified as proficient.

Preparing students for the NeSA assessment.

Getting the best results on the NeSA is all about good teaching and curriculum alignment. It is not about teaching to the test or spending time just for the test “cramming” those last minute facts. That being said there are some activities and strategies that can help students achieve a score on the NeSA that reflects their abilities.

I am compiling these activities on my web page and will continue to add to the list as new ideas are shared. My web page is at <http://lvermaas.wikispaces.com/>. The link in the left side is for “math standards and testing.” Toward the bottom of the page are thoughts about preparing for the assessments as well as ideas to motivate students to do better. While some of these activities relate specifically to math there are some generic ideas as well.

If you have some ideas you would like to share send them to me and I will add them to the list. lennyvermaas@gmail.com.